

this be the Consequence of our Troops being disbanded it will in the End prove a lucky Event. You will see the method that I propose to follow in an Extract of a Letter which I writ to Col^o Stanwix the Day after the Assembly broke up & in some Copies of Letters &c which have been sent to the Colonels of Militia; the first four Companies go from Kent, Queen Anns, Prince Georges, & Calvert Counties, & when their two Months are expired they will be relieved by four others from Cecil, Talbot, S^t Mary's & Baltimore. When two Companies have marched from every County the Colonels will be directed to call the Rest of their Captains together again & to draw Lots once more, so that all Persons may have an equal Chance & that there might be no Room to complain of Partiality. If this Scheme is pursued (for as yet I don't know whether the Earl of Loudoun will choose to have the Assembly called again or not) I shall myself repair to Fort Frederick in the Spring & no pains shall be spared that can contribute to the Security of the Inhabitants & to render the Militia expert & useful. Individuals will most certainly be distressed by being taken even for two Months from their Business & Families but I am persuaded that after a little use many of the Difficulties that now occur will vanish: I will endeavour as much as is in my power to render every thing as easy to them as possible & if they shall have still reason to complain of Hardships the Odium must fall on their Representatives & indeed I have the Satisfaction to find already that there are very few among the better sort of People who do not condemn their Conduct.

Besides the Question, whether any of our Troops should be subject to the Command of the Earl of Loudoun? You will find when you come to see the Proceedings of the Assembly this Session, that there was another started of as extraordinary a nature, to wit, Whether the Lower House of Assembly may not at any time send for my Secretary or (in their Language) the Gent^o that assists me in writing & compel him to answer to such questions as they may at any time have the Curiosity to ask. I beleive I need not say much to convince His Lordship or Yourself of the Impropriety of my submitting to a Claim or Demand of this Nature & I flatter myself that the Steps I took on the occasion will meet with Your Approbation. Tho it was not thought necessary to mention it in my Message I think fit to intimate to you that altho M^r Ridout had not my Leave to attend the Lower House of Assembly yet that he first advised with the Gent^o of the Upper House that happened to be sitting when he was sent for. It was supposed that the Lower House only wanted to ask him a trivial Question or two about an Election that was contro-